



WORLD'S OLDEST METHODIST.

Mrs. Mary Ramsey Wood, familiarly known as "Grandma Wood," who died lately at the home of her daughter, at the great age of one hundred and twenty years, is said to have been the oldest Methodist, if not the oldest woman, in the world. From a reader in Sherwood (Mr. F. B. Clark), we have received the story of Grandma Wood's life. She was born at Knoxville, Tenn., May 20, 1787. At the age of 12 years she joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. She married Jacob Lemons in 1804, and bore the following children: Mary Jane Lemons, born in 1806, died 1894; Isaac Lemons, born in 1809, died 1866; Mrs. Nancy Lemons Bullock, born 1816, died 1868; and Mrs. Catherine Reynolds, born 1830, at whose home the aged woman resided for many years.

Mrs. Lemons moved from Tennessee to Alabama with her husband in 1837, and to Georgia in 1838. Lemons died the following year. In 1849 she moved to Missouri. In 1852 she crossed the plains to Oregon, riding the entire distance on horseback on a mare she had christened "Martha Washington Pioneer." She settled in Washington County, and on May 28, 1854, was married to John Wood, who died in the sixties.

Mrs. Wood came from English stock, her ancestors settling in the Carolinas. Her mother died at the advanced age of 110. Grandma was a great reader in her time, and had often seen Gen. Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other statesmen of her youthful days. Her best recollections, however, as to public men seems to have centred on Andrew Jackson, with whom, it is said, she once danced in her younger days. She was cheery, good-natured and affable, a simple, unostentatious Christian, and greatly beloved by all who knew her.

There has been some doubt as to the authenticity of her birth-date, and Mrs. Reynolds wrote relatives of the Ramsey family at Warm Spring, Mo., who quoted from the family Bible, sustaining Grandma Wood's great age.—Christian Herald.

MORALITY OF THE STAGE.

It is the women today who make the success of the individual theatre and the individual play. If any doubt as to that exists in any one's mind, witness the attendance of these very theaters when immoral plays are running. Out of six such in New York, inspected by the Delineator, not one but showed an attendance of one-third to one-half of women. And as these women in the great majority were escorted there as the guests of the men, either their wives, sweethearts or friends, it stands to reason that the men would accept the dictate of the woman as to what play she would wish to see.

We repeat what Mr. Charles Burnham, president of the Association of Theatre Managers, says, "No play can exist that is not patronized by women," and we add to it: No play can exist that is not patronized by good women. There are not enough of the other kind to keep any show running. If, therefore, the good women of this great country will awake to their responsibilities in this one thing; if they will themselves refuse to attend; if they will use their unlimited influence to persuade their women and men friends not to attend any show of the kind, they will drive from the stage every indelicate, indecent, immoral or impure play. In that act they will be casting votes effectively for a great moral end, and

will build a platform on which they can well stand and claim a right to cast the ballot on every other thing.—The Delineator.

BELLS OF HOME APPEAL.

If they cannot be Mother Goosey enough to have bells on their toes, two young American women who have reached that awesome height to which rapturous servant girls refer as "marrying into the nobility," are making collections of tintinnabulatory things. When the Countess of Granard was in Washington last week she spent a few hours in curio shops looking for bells. She wants to outdo the collection of Mrs. John Ward, who was Jean Reid. The latter young woman has been getting bells for the last two years, and the bellroom in her country home is artistic. She has bells that rang centuries ago; deep-carved pealers suspended by brass chains from the raftered ceiling of her curio room. She has exquisite silver ecclesiastical bells and quaint little tinklers that called grand dames to coffee. In Washington the Countess purchased a bell that once did service on the table of George Bancroft and a colonial bell which the curio dealer assured her solemnly, summoned Lafayette to his meals when he was staying with a prominent family of Richmond.—New York Press.

WORK FOR THE NERVOUS.

Now, what is true for normal, healthy life is equally true for abnormal, morbid life. The popular doctrine for a long time has been that for nervous persons rest is a necessity. This doctrine has been embodied in the famous Weir Mitchell cure. And doubtless for certain cases rest should be commended—as, for example, in certain acute exhaustive states of the nervous system, where there is a genuine or physical fatigue as distinguished from psychical fatigue. But modern students are more and more coming to realize that not absolute rest but modified rest—that is to say, rest and work combined—is the sovereign remedy for nervous disorders. The great majority of persons who suffer from neurasthenia complain of a sense of fatigue, and they need above all things is rest, or cessation from activity; but they forget that, in a vast majority of instances the fatigue does not spring out of any real muscular weakness, but rather from psychical or mental causes.—Rev. Samuel McComb, in Harper's Bazar.

MUSIC IN YOUR HOME.

A social leader, looking into the social history of bells, unearthed fascinating stories. She has bells that were used in old Roman houses when Rome ruled the world. She has discovered that bells were used as personal trinkets and for household purposes soon after the Pharaohs. This woman has bells that hung in the fields of slaveholders in the South, and which sounded an alarm when the human chattel escaped. She is getting together material about her slave bells which will make "Uncle Tom's Cabin" look like a Sunday school story, she asserts. Decorations of bells are getting popular in comes where the mistress tends toward the uncommon. In many homes glass slabs tinkle with every passing breath as they hang from chandeliers.—New York Press.

TO IMPROVE YOUR CARRIAGE.

Every woman can possess a supple, agile body under perfect control. The first essential is to learn to stand properly, with the head erect and the shoulders flat, not pressed backward. To acquire this, balance an object on the head, in imitation of the peasant woman, and stand against a solid wall, the heels, trunk and back of the head touching it. When you feel that you are "in position," step forward, retaining the object (it may be anything—a small pillow or a weight) upon the head. Now raise the heels slowly, pressing the floor with the toes; repeat this 10 times. Now hold the arms

flat against the sides, bend the knees and lower the body toward the heels without actually touching them; raise the body slowly, keeping the back straight and upright (otherwise the object will fall off your head) and not allowing the hands to touch the floor. Repeat 10 times.

Next, fill the lungs full of fresh air; hold it, and with the body and head erect, raise one arm, forcibly above the head while the other is held close to the side; lower the raised arm, and, while so doing, raise the other. Continue vigorously this alternate movement (aiding yourself in the erect posture with the object upon the head) until the air in the lungs must be expelled. Slowly refill the lungs and repeat. This exercise has also a particularly stimulating action upon the liver.—The Delineator.

WEDDING VEILS.

As to the wedding veil, its disposal is a matter of taste. If worn over the face, a separate short piece for this purpose is pinned on at the front of the coiffure, to be taken off at the chancel rail by the maid of honor or one of the bridesmaids, and not put back again. Most brides in this country wear the veil off the face. The same rules as to dress apply at home as if the bride is married at church.

The bridesmaids usually wear hats, but a very pretty custom, followed much in Europe, is the wearing of a tulle veil instead of a hat. This veil, which is adjusted with a wreath of flowers, and of course worn back from the face, is always becoming. The veil matches the gown in color, and the flowers are the same as those in the bouquet. The bridesmaid and maid of honor both wear gloves.—From Vogue.

ASKED THE FRANCHISE.

Mrs. E. S. Fiske, Mrs. H. Colby Smith and Mrs. H. H. Pickett recently appeared before the local Government officials in St. John, New Brunswick, and asked that the franchise in provincial affairs be given to women on the same terms on which they now have it in the municipal elections. The Government officials took the matter under advisement.—New York Sun.

GRATIFYING PROGRESS.

The suffrage papers of England report that the number of women elected to office in Ireland during the last twelve months has been gratifying to all advocates of equal suffrage. Five women, Mrs. L. A. Barr, Mrs. Griffin, Miss Hamilton, Miss G. Leake Gri n, and Lady Dockrell, were elected as urban, district and town councillors. Forty-three women were elected as rural district councillors, twenty of them for the first time. As poor law guardians 103 women were elected.—New York Sun.

FASHION NOTES.

The lines of the best waists show width at the shoulders and a slight taper at the waist line.

On tailor makes the sleeves are plain and severe, but on dressy gowns they are puffed and ruffed.

Blouses almost without exception are being chosen to match the gowns with which they are being worn.

Many of the new gowns display embroideries more intricate and elaborate than those of last season.

Aside from bronze, black patent leather with kid or cloth top is the dress boot.

Fashion is trying to drive out the button from the full dress scheme as far as it is possible to do.

A new pongee ribbon in dashy, designs is intended not so much for hat decorations as for women's neckties.

Masses of hand-embroidery distinguish the newest linen gowns.

For morning wear chamails and castor gloves are still the rage.

Cotton voile leads as a material among the lace-trimmed blouses.

Navy blue veiling with dots in velvet are a feature of the season.

Many of the new waists are of

net embroidered in a color and gold. To wear with Dutch collars there are charming little clasps of brilliants.

A straight row of buttons down the front of a dress is not in good style. Field flowers in their natural colorings appear on hats.

Wide black ribbon is the trimming used for two-thirds of the hat models.

Hand tucks and hand embroidery are favored beyond all other trimming methods.

The plain, ring and dotted net effects are in profusion and give good effects.

Normandy caps of batiste or net will be worn by both children and grownups.

WANTS NO CARP.

California Is Not Strong for the Fish.

An interesting article is going the rounds of the press about the carp and the fondness of the Germans for the fish. It must be served absolutely fresh, say the newspapers, and in German restaurants they frequently allow the guests to catch the carp that is to be cooked immediately and served at once.

That sort of thing may do in Germany, but it will not be a success in the San Joaquin Valley. We know the carp, and the voices of true sportsmen are still raised from time to time in devil's blessings on the species. We are perfectly willing that our Deutcher friends shall enjoy the golden carp or the silver carp—the always muddy carp—and let it go at that. We want no more.

It was about thirty years ago that some misguided son of the Fatherland came to this country with a lot of carp, imported at great expense, because his palate hungered for the food of the old country. He wished to have served with his kartoffelpfannekucken some of the finny tribe that he remembered when he was young, not realizing that in our glorious trout, our imperial salmon, our flashing smelts and even in our humble "shiners," we had far better fish than all Germany could boast.

Those carp were loosed in the streams and muddy pools. They increased in a way that would have made their introducer's hair stand on end had he lived to suffer from his mistaken kindness. They gnawed at the wild cherry and thus destroyed many of the best feeding grounds of the canvas-back duck. They got away with the food of the trout fry and they wandered betimes into the fields that before had been sacred to the sturgeon. The lazy vegetable eaters soon became a nuisance and ranked as vermin.

It has taken years to rid our streams of the foul-feeding carp, and no press agenting can ever induce us to allow it to come into condition again in these waters.

Thing of the Past.

Leonaro O'Reilly, the vice president of the Women's Trade Union League, was praising this organization's work in New York.

"And it has a great future before it," she said. "I have no doubt that a century hence the members of the league will regard the woman of today as we now regard the farmer's wife of the early '40's."

"A Maine deacon of the early '40's was talking to the minister. He sniffed and whined:

"'Oh, yes, Job suffered some, I ain't denyin' that parson. But Job never knowed what it was to have his team run off and kill his wife right in the midst of the harvest season, with hired girls wantin' two dollars and two and a half a week."

Not Like Opera Bandits.

Trotter—During my travels in Italy I was captured, bound and gagged by bandits.

Miss Homer—How romantic! Were they anything like the bandits in the opera.

Trotter—No, indeed; the gags they used were all new.—From Tit-Bits.